

Policy 7.01 Progress Report: Seattle DCS

Biennium Timeframe: July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2006

Plan Due Dates: April 2 (Regional Plan submitted to Assistant Secretary) and April 30 (Assistant Secretary Plan submitted to IPSS) of each even-numbered year.
Progress Report Due Dates: April 2 (Regional Plan submitted to Assistant Secretary) and April 30 (Assistant Secretary Plan submitted to IPSS) of each odd-numbered year.

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Goals/Objectives	Activities	Expected Outcome	Lead Staff and Target Date	Status Update for the Fiscal Year Starting Last July 1
1. Prepare and disseminate pertinent statistics on American Indian community and participant populations, numbers of American Indian participants served and other relevant data	<p>As of February 1, 2005 the specialized Tribal Caseload consists of 791 cases – 63 more cases than one year ago. These cases are primarily cases of Non-Custodial Parents who are members of Washington and Alaska tribes, principally Muckleshoot, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimpshian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The caseload also has 67 cases where the Non-Custodial Parent works for a tribe, but is of another ethnic background. The number of cases where the Non-Custodial Parent works for a tribe has decreased by 6 over the last year. The electronic referral process now transmits tribal information and is partially responsible in the caseload growth. <p>In January, 2005, payments were received on 50.6% of the Tribal Caseload—43.7% had current payments, 6.9% had partial payments.</p> <p>The Tribal Caseload is comprised of 116 TANF cases, 340 non-assistance cases and 49 foster care cases. The remaining cases are arrears-only, paternity, et cetera. TANF collections were \$17,123.55 –an increase of \$4,588.51 and non-assistance collections were \$56,945.16—an increase of \$2,570.41.</p>	Statistics will be available to tribal authorities on request	<p>Region 4 Tribal Staff Ike Crider, 206-341-7175 Lynda Kennemore, 206-341-7038 Sara Harding, 206-341-7238</p>	The RS screen currently exists as part of the computerized child support system, SEMS, and is available on line at any Division of Child Support Office.

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	Snoqualmie: The Tribal Liaison will verify tribal status at every opportunity. At this time, 10 NCP's are identified as Snoqualmie (5 more than last year) with two additional NCP's that are employed by the Tribe. The Snoqualmie Tribe has requested a bi-annual report of the number of Snoqualmie children receiving DCS services.			
2. Ensure efforts are made to recruit/hire American Indian staff to meet the overall DSHS goal of having a diverse workforce.	The Seattle Recruitment Committee performs recruitment outreach. The committee works with IPSS Region 4 representative Doug North to arrange contact and activities with the Muckleshoot Tribe and other organizations serving American Indians. In past years members of the committee have performed specific outreach to the Muckleshoot Tribe and other Indian resources. The Tribes and other organizations will be provided with information and flyers to post and inform their members and clients when registers are open and when test counseling classes are being held.		Recruitment committee chair – Karen Shager, 206-341-7170. Diversity coordinator—Phyllis Atkinson, 206-341-7081.	Brochures were delivered to the Tribes as recently as March 2006.
3. Negotiate & implement local Tribal-State agreements, protocols, contracts, or	<p>The Muckleshoot Tribe honors voluntary wage assignments from non-custodial parents, and informally agrees to honor wage withholds for all tribal employees including tribal members. This informal agreement assists members in meeting their support obligations and provides support to children and families.</p> <p>Although no formal or informal agreements are in place with the</p>		Region 4 Tribal Staff Ike Crider, 206-341-7175 Lynda	The Muckleshoot Tribe voluntarily honors wage assignments and payroll deduction notices on all employees including tribal members. Currently, there are 125 Payroll Deduction

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similar processes.	<p>Snoqualmie Tribe, they are accepting wage withholds at this time. Two NCP's are employed by the Tribe at this time.</p> <p>Snoqualmie: Region 4 will cooperate with the Snoqualmie Tribe in reaching the agreed goal of a formal agreement.</p>		<p>Kennemore, 206-341-7038</p>	<p>Notices and 8 voluntary Wage Assignments with the Muckleshoot tribe. The Snoqualmie Tribe had requested contact with STRU to discuss the possibility of a formal agreement. STRU has followed up on the requested contact.</p>
<p>4. Ensure communication with tribal governments, landless tribes, and off reservation American Indian organizations for information sharing, consultation, joint planning, and problem solving.</p>	<p>a Per request of the Muckleshoot Tribe outreach resumed as of November 2002. Ike Crider is at the reservation on the first Monday of every month; effective April 2005 the date will change to the first Tuesday of every month. The goal is to be available to the Tribe and assist individuals with their child support needs.</p> <p>b The Seattle Liaison participates in outreach activities sponsored through regional Native American organizations.</p> <p>c. Ike Crider participated in joint training with tribal authorities as well as attending the Tribal Child Support Conference in July. He and Lynda Kennemore will participate in the NCSEA Teletalk on February 17, 2005.</p> <p>d. The Muckleshoot Tribe and DCS will begin quarterly joint staff meetings to resolve client issues beginning March 17, 2005. These meetings may also include general tribal concerns involving communications from DCS, including mailings and correspondence from the Division.</p>		<p>Region 4 Tribal Staff Ike Crider, 206-341-7175 Lynda Kennemore, 206-341-7038 Sara Harding, 206-341-7238</p>	<p>a. The Region 4 Tribal Liaison Ike Crider currently conducts outreach at the Muckleshoot Tribe one day each month. The outreach hours have been expanded and moved per request at a meeting with the Muckleshoot Tribe.</p> <p>Region 4 offers assistance in consultation and training as the tribes prepare for Tribal TANF and Tribal Child Support agencies.</p> <p>c. The Tribal Liaison has participated in the Federal Region X Quarterly Teleconference meetings.</p> <p>d. Sharon Redmond met</p>

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	<p>e. Both the Muckleshoot tribe and DCS will explore the potential to increase the child support capacity of the Tribal Court through grants and other avenues.</p> <p>f. The Muckleshoot Tribe and DCS will participate in training of Tribal Advocates in DCS processes to provide improved services to tribal members.</p> <p>g. DCS will explore avenues to notify the Muckleshoot Tribe of hearing dates involving child support tribal issues.</p> <p>h. The Snoqualmie Tribe requested an article explaining DCS services for inclusion in the Snoqualmie Newsletter.</p>			<p>several times with Sharon Curley and her staff and identified cases of concern. Confidentiality release forms were provided to the tribe to allow for more detailed discussions.</p> <p>e. The Tribal Liaison discussed the possibility of Tribal Court grants with Region X, no known grants at this time.</p> <p>f. Sharon Redmond gave a presentation on the state's child support administrative process.</p> <p>g. Pending</p> <p>h. Newsletter was completed on 3/24/05. Outreach to the Snoqualmie Tribe is available on request. At this point, all issues have been addressed by telephone.</p>

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5. Identify needs of American Indian clients & communities and whether current programs and policies meet these needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a The Seattle Field Office works to maintain lines of communication through community involvement. b Outreach is performed through the Chamber of Commerce and the Drug and Alcohol programs. The Tribal Liaison and the CSOs are cooperating to resolve IV-A/IV-D issues and to assist the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office with paternity establishment. To improve access, the Liaison provides the direct phone number to all parties. 		Region 4 Tribal Staff Ike Crider, 206-341-7175 Lynda Kennemore, 206-341-7038	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Tribal Liaison participates in Resource Center activities on outreach days. b. KCPA is now contacting the Tribal Liaison anytime a tribal issue may be involved in a paternity case. The Tribal Liaison is also available to the Tribes a paternity issue arises
6. Identify outstanding issues/gaps in service and develop performance expectations, which can be implemented, monitored and evaluated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Muckleshoot Tribal Court is associated with the Northwest Inter-tribal Court System (NICS). NICS is writing child support code with funding of a Federal Grant. Seattle DCS/ Region 4 Tribal Staff have agreed to, on request, produce sample WSCSS worksheets for the court in appropriate actions to illustrate the factors under consideration in setting support and the amount that might be issued in a Washington State court if the matter were brought there. b. Establish a paternity process with the Muckleshoot Tribe where DCS provides genetic testing services and is able to petition the tribal court to resolve paternity issues. c. Agreement allowing income withholding to collect child support on all tribal members. The Casino and Bingo Hall are allowed by the Muckleshoot Tribe to withhold for all employees per the informal agreement. 		Region 4 tribal staff – Ike Crider 206-341-7175, Lynda Kennemore, 206-341-7038	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A process relying on FAX transmittals is in place. Access to the Muckleshoot Tribal Court has been discussed. The issue must be resolved with the Council. Sharon Redmond provided training on how the worksheets apply to the state process. The Muckleshoot Tribe was hoping to obtain a grant to expand the capacity of the court to deal with child support issues. To date, workload issues have prevented this

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	<p>d. Service of legal notices on the reservation through a tribal official.</p> <p>e. Snoqualmie: Service issues will be reserved for council decision.</p>			<p>action.</p> <p>b. Courtesy DNA testing is now being done in cooperation with KCPA. There were no requests for genetic testing during the last year. DCS remains available to facilitate and pay for the tests as needed.</p> <p>c. The Muckleshoot Tribe has informally agreed to accept payroll deductions for all employees including tribal members. Other informal agreements seem likely to increase.</p> <p>d. Not viable at this time due to opposition of Tribal Council and disbanding of Tribal Police. Efforts are continuing to bring this issue before the Council.</p> <p>e. Reserved for Council action.</p>

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7. Train ESA staff on major principles of Federal Indian law.	Seattle Tribal personnel and Administrators will continue to attend training provided by the Governors Office, DSHS, and /or DCS. The Liaison has provided training to all teams in the field office and provides refresher courses on request. Seattle Field Office provides an overview of the State/Tribal Relations Program and the Department's American Indian Policy as part of the new employee orientation packet. Written materials such as the Sovereignty of American Indian Tribes, Tribal and State Court Sovereignty, and Excerpts from the Digest of American Indian Law are shared with supervisors and Claims Officers.		Region 4 tribal staff – Ike Crider 206-341-7175, Lynda Kennemore, 206-341-7038	Ike Crider and Lynda Kennemore will continue to attend training provided by the Governor's Office. Sara Harding attended the GOIA in 2005. All Tribal Liaison's at this field office have completed this training. Lynda Kennemore and Kevin Lee completed 701 Plan Training in 2005.